

**From:** Donald Helsel <dhelsel1@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2017 7:37 PM  
**To:** Rep. Triston Cole (District 105); Rep. Michael Webber (District 45); Rep. Peter Lucido (District 36); Rep. David Maturen (District 63); Rep. Brett Roberts (District 65); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82); Rep. Julie Alexander (District 64); Rep. Julie Calley (District 87); Rep. Jeff Noble (District 20); Rep. John Chirkun (District 22); Rep. John Chirkun (District 22); Rep. Leslie Love (District 10); Rep. Cara Clemente (District 14); Rep. Cara Clemente (District 14); Rep. Terry Sabo (District 92); Rep. Tim Sneller (District 50)  
**Cc:** Cath Petroskey  
**Subject:** HD4846 - MI-TRALE Comments  
**Attachments:** House Bill 4846 Response - MI-TRALE.pdf

October 1, 2017

Subject: House Bill #4846

MI-TRALE is a multi-use Recreational Organization located in the Western Upper Peninsula. We have about 300 members, mostly ORV riders and sponsor about 550 miles of trails. We wanted to provide you our thoughts on House Bill 4846. We have been directly involved with development of ORV trails in the Western UP which have required the use and approval of a MDOT ROW on State highways. This includes the original pilot program.

This bill is requesting an unrestricted use of State highways, with a few exceptions, on the far right maintained portion of the road.

The current MDOT ROW approval process has been adequate to allow the continuation of the ORV trails that required the use of State highway access to complete a connection to services or between cities. This process ensures that the proper signage is in place for the ORV users and the highway users of the ROW shared area. This is important to secure the safety of both. The proposed HB4846 appears to be in affect 12 months of the year. This raises concerns with winter use, especially in the UP of Michigan. Here we have snowmobiles, and full sized vehicles sharing this space, and now to add a third vehicle type does not seem safe proposal. The MDOT ROW is closed from December to May.

The current MDOT ROW process has proven that it works and has provided the access required.

We do not believe that I need to point out that people buy an ORV for Off Road use, and the vast majority do not want to or enjoy driving on or near a highway. The ORV vehicles are designed and manufactured to be used off-road, and they are very safe in that environment.

We would encourage the committee to consider the safety of all State highway users, and if there really is a need to open the highways to ORV users. We do not believe that this open use is required or safe.

MI-TRALE does not support this proposed legislation.

Donald Helsel - President

MI-TRALE Board